



Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity SC035678

www.eljc.org

September 2013

Elul 5773 – Tishrei 5774

issue 57

September

4	Erev Rosh Hashanah	
	SMU	7.00
5	Rosh Hashanah <i>see p. 8</i>	
	SMU	11.00
6	Kabbalat Shabbat	
	Shabbat Shuvah	
	MSG	6.15
7	Cheder	
	CC	3.30
13	Kol Nidrei	
	SMU	7.00
14	Yom Kippur <i>see p. 8</i>	
	SMU	11.00
21	Sukkah building	9.30
	Shabbat Sukkot	
	Morning Service	11.00
	Cheder	3.30
	MSG	
25	Erev Simchat Torah	
	CC	6.30
28	Shabbat Morning Service	
	Benjamin Staal's	
	Bar Mitzvah	
	CC	11.00
29	Tea and Talmud	
	CC	4.00

Venues

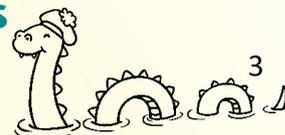
CC	Columcille Centre 2 Newbattle Terrace
MSG	Marchmont St Giles 1a Kilgraston Road
SMU	St Mark's Unitarian 7 Castle Terrace

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Community Phone

This phone number sends voicemail to members the Contact Team
0131 777 8024

Urgent Support

Only for use in emergency. This number alerts all members of the Welfare Team simultaneously
0131 208 1447

Email Contact

You can reach the Contact Team and the Newsletter Team by using the form at contact.eljc.org
Chair Norman Crane
Administrator Catherine Lyons
Treasurer Gillian Raab
Equalities Rebekah Gronowski
Membership Eva Wiseman

Word from the Chair

The year turns, and the High Holidays are almost upon us. One of the tasks that falls to the Synagogue Council is to allocate readings of parts of the services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. In practice this far from easy task is delegated to one member of Council, who accomplishes it with little fuss and great efficiency.

There are potential pitfalls. I was reminded of these when Ricky Hogg sought my comments on an exercise as part of his Ba'alei Tefillah course. If you recall, this course is aimed at helping individuals improve their skills in taking services.

The following exercise is based on a real-life situation. Lina is an older woman who is brought by her carer to Shabbat evening services. Before the service, the warden asks Lina if she would like to read the Theme for the Week and she gladly accepts. When Lina comes to the front of the congregation and reads the passage, it becomes clear that she has some difficulty either seeing or processing the words on the page. She struggles slowly and with difficulty through the first half page, and the Theme is three pages long. You can see one or two congregants already looking uneasy.

Key questions

1. What goes through your mind about this situation?
2. In what ways do you feel pressured by conflicting values?
3. How might you seek to manage the situation there and then?
4. A day or two after the service what actions might you want to take ?

The scenario brought to mind a similar incident in Manchester some years ago. A group of us met together for a meal on one Friday a month. Our Shabbat services and suppers were often attended by young men with learning disabilities and their carer.

One of the young men joined in singing Grace after Meals in an enthusiastic way. So on one occasion I asked him to lead. Well, he began to sing in a very melodious voice but in nonsense syllables. After a bit he stopped. I thanked him very much and asked if he minded if I added some more. He nodded, and I proceeded with Grace in the normal way.

Faced by this unexpected problem, I had done my best, on the one hand, to preserve the young man's dignity and, on the other, to satisfy our collective need to have things done properly. The scenario with Lina is similar but much more difficult to deal with. I might have tried the same tack, waited for a pause, and offered to continue with her. What seems important to me is to preserve the dignity of the individual concerned. This is not just the service leader's responsibility, but also the responsibility of the community, and their needs on this one occasion would seem to me to be secondary. The questions posed in the exercise focus on what might be done after the incident. But what did not happen *beforehand* is probably more important. It would seem elementary, for example, to have asked the carer how much they thought Lina could manage. The same unthinking lack of imagination that I displayed was in evidence here too.

So what has all this got to do with the High Holidays? What we are asked to do is to make amends, and ask forgiveness of all those we have wronged during the year. This a grand concept, but it is very difficult to put into practice. I expect that I would have to spend the whole Ten Days having heart-to-heart conversations with a large number of people. Lina's scenario offers the opportunity for the service leader to make amends shortly after the event, and it seems to me that this is preferable to saving things up for a ritual exercise. In fact, the exhortation is rather to awaken our consciences to the effects of our attitudes and acts on other people.

If one takes any kind of responsibility in a community, one is in a position where one might possibly do more harm than good. I would like to take this opportunity of saying sorry to all those whose ideas, needs, and feelings I have ignored or trampled on in the past year.

New Year: a time also for new beginnings; and how splendid it is to read about new arrivals in the community, and into life as human beings. Shanah Tovah everyone!

Norman Crane

Sailing and Sea Monsters

A Bar Mitzvah interview with

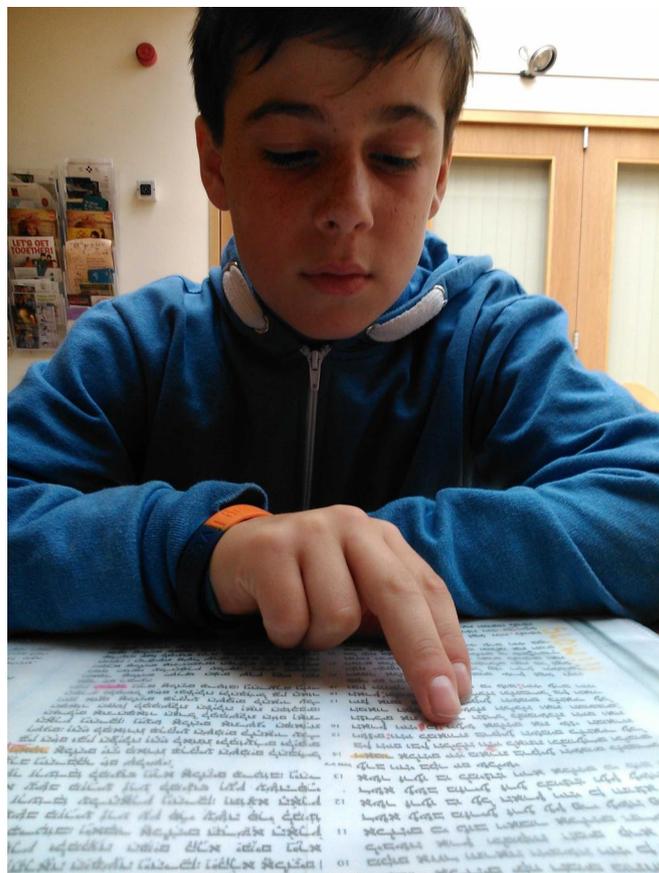


Benjamin Staal



Benjamin is excited about the whole prospect of his Bar Mitzvah. Is he ready? As long as there is time left, he will be working on improving, he says. But yes; he's ready. He seems nervous, but only in the way of people really well prepared and focused on what they are about to do.

When he started working with Norman and first looked at his *parashah*, Benjamin was astonished at the thought that he would even be able to read a whole line. But now, he can recite lines of *Bereshit* with his eyes closed, even when his brother and sisters are being noisy! He thinks himself lucky to have such an interesting *parashah*.



So what does Benjamin make of the creation story? It's strange reading about sea monsters in the Torah, he says. How do we understand this now? Did God put Nessie down in a northern part of the planet to encourage tourists to spend money in Scotland?

More likely these stories came about to help people who were afraid of things they didn't understand. These are not just 'once upon a time' stories, says Benjamin. They are stories that people really believed in.

And what about us? Benjamin says that *Bereshit* reminds us that we have only one planet. Messing it up would be irrevocable. And Adam and Eve are parents to all of us. We are all brothers and sisters.

What does Benjamin like doing when he is not preparing for his bar mitzvah? He loves sailing at St. Andrews and skiing at Glenshee.

Benjamin will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on 24 Tishrei 5774 (28 September 2013).

Trip to Abbotsford

A special opportunity to tour the home of Sir Walter Scott in the company of his most recent librarian

Gillian Raab

You may recall (Newsletter 54, June 2013) that Lindsay Levy has recently retired just as she finished cataloguing Walter Scott's library. Lindsay has kindly agreed to be our guide on a trip round Abbotsford, Walter Scott's home near Melrose, on Sunday 22nd September.

[Abbotsford House](#) has recently had a complete restoration and is now open to the public. As many of you will know Lindsay's work involved uncovering various literary treasures that no one knew were there. Although she is now retired, Lindsay is now working on [her PhD on Scott and Abbotsford Library](#) at the University of Glasgow and regularly gives lectures on her work.

Lindsay says, 'I know that, after working on the Library for ten years, you will all expect me to be enthusiastic about Abbotsford, but I can honestly say that since the reopening I have heard from many people who have visited the house, some of whom have spent over fifty years working on Scott and are hyper-critical, but they have all been delighted with the refurbishment. In fact, perhaps uniquely in academic circles, there hasn't been a single voice of dissent!

As well as the historic house there is a new visitor centre with a small museum that tells the story of Scott's life in a way accessible to all levels of



previous knowledge (or lack of it). This building, which won the Scottish Design Awards prize for environmental sustainability, also houses the restaurant.'

We will make a group booking for people who want to have lunch before visiting the house (approximate cost for a light lunch will be £5.50). For parties of ten or more, visiting the house and



grounds is £7.50 per person. Entry for children is £3.50 (free for the under 5's). Audio guides are included in the price.

This is a nice trip for children too. There's an outdoor play area, and one of the audio guides is narrated in the characters of Scott's dog and cat, Maida and Hinse.

We are delighted that, after the visit, Isobel King, who lives in the nearby village of Newstead, has invited us to join her for tea at her charming home, Dove Cottage.

We need to book our tour group in advance, so please contact me by *Monday 16th September*.

Booking

Email Gillian using the form at contact.eljc.org, or phone her on 07748 678 551. Indicate how many people will be: arriving for lunch, touring the house, and visiting Isobel for tea.

Transport

Please tell Gillian whether you need a lift or whether you are able to offer a lift to others.

It is not practical to get there by bus, so we hope to arrange for everyone to share lifts. Drivers will find directions on the Abbotsford web site.

Parking at Newstead: Dove cottage is in the centre of the village just opposite the village hall. The main street is very narrow so you should not park there. Leave your car at the Health Centre car park at the East end of the village (furthest from Melrose and Abbotsford). This is only a 2 minute walk from the cottage.

Timetable

12.30 pm	Lunch at the Ochiltree restaurant (by reservation)
2.00 pm	House and gardens
4.00 pm	Tea at Dove Cottage, Newstead

Tzedakah for Kol Nidrei

It is our minchag to donate money to a range of causes at this time of year: two local charities, one Jewish and one not; a non-profit organisation working for peace and justice in Israel and Palestine, and another one working for international development. We like to select projects that embody Jewish values of justice and dignity, projects that our community has some connection with, and small-scale grassroots projects where, as a small community ourselves, we know our donation will make a difference.

This year, the Council has selected Cosgrove Care, the Pastoral Foundation, Rabbis for Human Rights, and the Jabulani Project. We will hear about each of these at our Kol Nidrei service. In the Newsletter, here and in the next few months, we find out more about each one.

Jabulani means *happiness* in Zulu. Borne out of a ten-year partnership between James Gillespie's High School in Edinburgh and Zwelibanzi High School in Umlazi Township (Durban) in South Africa, the Jabulani Project empowers people from Scotland and South Africa to add lasting value to society.

Our own community includes current and former pupils at James Gillespie's. Some readers may know that Isaac from the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation has been greatly involved in Jabulani, as has his mum, Jane Ansell, recently mentioned in these pages in connection with Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue. (Sharp-eyed readers of the *Edinburgh Star* may even remember that Isaac received an award from the Chief Rabbi for his work with Jabulani.) Isaac, now a student at Glasgow University, is also a volunteer development officer for Jabulani, and we invite him to describe the project.

The Jabulani Project

Isaac Ansell Forsyth

[The Jabulani Project](#) creates opportunities for people in both countries to meet and interact in a variety of contexts. Through mutuality and reciprocity, it enables people from Scotland and South Africa to share ideas, skills, and attitudes, enriching lives in both countries. Where there is social and economic deprivation, it also creates opportunities for self-determination.

Jabulani recruits local volunteers in Durban and volunteers from Scotland. Former pupils from each of the founding high schools have volunteered. Volunteers work in township schools and crèches, street children projects, children's homes, and community centres. They support local individuals who run the projects full time, in a sustainable and reciprocal way.

Jabulani facilitates access to higher education in Durban's townships, helping with registration and tuition fees, and delivering courses for school leavers in creating CVs and job interview skills. Through Edinburgh International City of Learning, Jabulani has established reciprocal graduation between the University of Kwazulu-Natal and the University of Edinburgh. Jabulani also delivers



Jabulani volunteers playing with street children in Durban at the SISCO centre: SISCO gets kids off the streets and provides food, shelter, and life skills. Jabulani helps SISCO with food donations, literacy, and IT programmes.

professional training in autism, leadership, organisational culture, and managing grief and bereavement.

Jabulani has also established Scotland's [John Byrne Award](#) in four township schools. Whether in Edinburgh or Durban, final-year pupils are challenged to express through a creative work the values they believe will bring a better world. Scottish winners assign prize money to projects that embody those values. Durban winners receive funding towards their higher education.

The grassroots nature of Jabulani assures that donations are put to good use. Contributions provide essential food for street children and travel subsidies for volunteers from both countries. Importantly, donations provide support for local economically deprived volunteers. They themselves provide vital support for disadvantaged children, and such donations support their own economic and social self-determination.

Cheder starts the new year with record enrolment



On Shabbat afternoon, on the last day of August, children arrived for the first cheder session of the new year. Thirteen children, a record number, are now registered for cheder. Of those, three are new this term.

After studying Hebrew, the classes came together for a break before the younger children painted apples and honey on Rosh Hashanah cards.

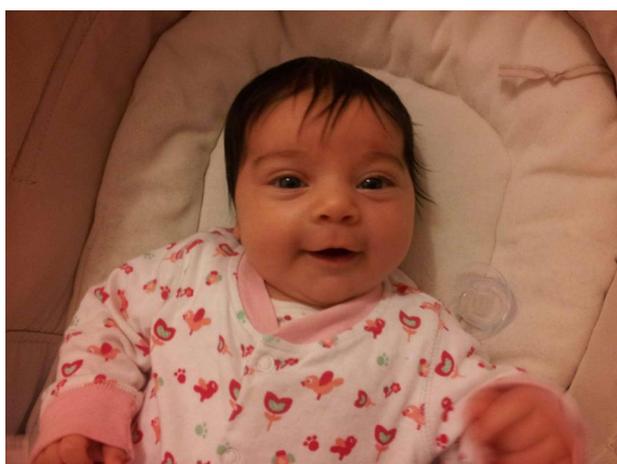
Here are most of them (with some younger siblings) at break-time eating apples and honey, pomegranate and honey cake. Meanwhile, a future pupil peruses part of the cheder library.



New babies, and members new and renewed!

We are very pleased to welcome [Taryn Brandt Crosbie](#) as a member. Many of us met Taryn and her husband [Neil](#) and their families earlier this month at the naming ceremony for their three-week-old daughter, [Leiya](#). *Taryn writes:*

Thank you for the wonderful experience we have had embracing Jewish culture in Edinburgh after 30 years in NYC, and how inviting the congregation was even though we are new people whom they have never met; we were so happy to celebrate our daughter's naming ceremony with everyone and are so grateful for the support in planning the ceremony which Norman conducted. I felt warmly embraced by the congregation which made me feel more settled in my new home. We look forward to participating in activities and holidays as members of the congregation.



Tamara Kandlik Eltanani

We also congratulate [Mor](#) and [Yakir Kandlik Eltanani](#), whose baby girl, [Tamara](#), also made her first appearance in shul this past month. Tamara will have a naming ceremony in Israel this autumn.

Thank you, from Rebekah

Rebekah Gronowski wishes to thank everyone who made her 70th birthday such a memorable occasion.

Special thanks to Norman, Wendy, and Lisa, who prepared a lovely Kiddush after the Shabbat Service. Thank you to all who came to the Service and/or have sent good wishes, cards, and thoughtful gifts. It was truly a day to remember!



Taryn holding Leiya at her naming ceremony conducted by Norman Crane.

We are also delighted to welcome, among other new members, [Louise Primrose](#), along with [Emily](#) and [Lucie](#), who are two of a number of new cheder pupils, and are well settled in.

With great pleasure we welcome back [Katy Bromberg](#), who has just returned to Edinburgh from Manchester. Katy and her husband [Alasdair](#) are now the parents of [Tavish](#), who is almost three. We look forward to having them all back as part of the community again.

Mazel Tov to Michael and Rostick!

Our warmest congratulations to former member and occasional visitor Michael Hornsby and his partner Rostyslav Kanibolotskyi. (Readers may remember Michael's *Newsletter* article in July about progressive Judaism in Poland.)

Michael and Rostick tied the knot in a Civil Partnership in South Queensferry, during the summer.

Rosh Hashanah Lunch and Tashlich

The community thanks Gillian and Charlie for once again sponsoring our Rosh Hashanah lunch. The Raabs will be supplying a buffet, and would like **volunteers to help set things out** on Rosh Hashanah morning, from 9:30am.

Donations of honey cake for the buffet will be most welcome, and should also be brought through to the back room before the service.

Contact Gillian through contact.eljc.org or on 07748 678 551 to volunteer.

After lunch, we will continue our tradition of Tashlich near St Bernard's Well on the Water of Leith.



Cuddly toys will be helping with the Yom Kippur children's service

If you are very little, bring your own special cuddly toy to meet these furry creatures. They will help us explore how to be kinder to each other in the year ahead.

Older children will be using a special mini-machzor prepared for the day.

The Yom Kippur Children's Service will take place at 4:30pm.

Communal Yom Kippur Breakfast

After Havdalah, shortly after 8:00pm, we have the opportunity to share a breakfast meal, this year provided by Xander's Catering. The price will be **£14 per person** and include a hot dish plus bread, dips, cheese and fruit, and also soft drinks and tea/coffee. We need a minimum order of ten portions for each dish from the list below, so please indicate **first**, **second**, and **third** choice of dish when you book.

Smoked Fish Pie A medley of smoked fish in a creamy fish sauce, topped with buttery duchess potato.

Fruit & Vegetable Curry Medium-heat curry packed with delicious fresh fruits and assorted vegetable with sweet & spicy overtones, served with pilau rice.

Mushroom Stroganoff Transforms full-flavoured mushrooms into a dreamy, meat-free stroganoff, served with rice

Spinach & Ricotta Cannelloni This substantial classic Italian dish is delicious served with a simple fresh green salad.

To book (and find out how to pay), please email Gillian Raab by going to contact.eljc.org or phone 07748 678 551.

Rosh Hashanah challah for sale in Morningside

Andante Bakery in Morningside Rd will be baking round challah for sale on Wednesday 4 September and Friday 6 September.